



40 DAYS OF LIFE-CHANGING GENEROSITY: LOVE-IN-ACTION IDEAS

Jesus said, "LET your light shine before men IN SUCH A WAY that they may SEE your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Compiled by Brian Kluth for www.GenerousLife.org & www.LovingOurCommunity.org multi-church campaigns.

40 Love-In-Action Ideas for INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Prayerfully look over these ideas. Keep track and see how many you can do over the next 40 Days. Each day, talk with others about items you did (and what happened) and what you are planning on doing. See how many lives you and your family can touch in 40 days! ([CLICK for Children's Wall Chart List of IDEAS](#))

1. Cook a meal for an individual or family who is sick, recovering from surgery, recently had a baby, etc.
2. Give a book you have to a friend who would be helped by it.
3. Tell others about the 40 Day Generous Life devotional (free online at www.GiveWithJoy.org) and invite them to participate. You can also post news about this on Facebook, Twitter, social media, or send out emails.
4. When you notice someone that seems lost or needs help, ask if you can be of help.
5. Hold the door open for someone.
6. Buy some \$5 fast food gift cards you can give to homeless people OR make some "help the homeless kits" to have available in your car (put travel size shampoo, toothpaste, socks, Christian book/tract, \$5 gift card for fast food, nail clippers, etc into a zip lock bag).
7. Let someone go in line ahead of you at the store.
8. Smile at people that you walk by and say Good Morning or Good afternoon..
9. When you buy a snack, buy 2 and share it with someone.
10. Begin to discuss and plan a LOVE-IN-ACTION PROJECT you can do with your family, group, church, co-workers, friends, school, church, or others. Help the needy, nonprofits, the neighbors/neighborhood, schools, etc.
11. If you buy something to drink, give the cashier extra cash to pay for the next person's drink.
12. Help return shopping carts in the parking lot to where they belong.
13. Buy a dozen donuts and take it to a fire or police station and tell them thank you for what they do.
14. Send a thank you text, note, email or make a phone call to thank someone who has played a special part in your life in the past.
15. Walk through you neighborhood and say hi and introduce yourself to people you haven't met or talked to in awhile.
16. Be kind or do something nice for someone you dislike.
17. Offer to care for a neighbor's or friend's pet, plants, or yard when they go on a trip.
18. When you are making a meal, make extra and share it with someone in need.

40 Love-in-Action Ideas for GROUPS

Prayerfully look over these ideas. Help organize a group from your church, workplace, civic group, school, club, nonprofit organization, ministry, or relatives to accomplish one or more of the following ideas during the 40 Days. When possible, let the local media know what you are doing so they can cover the story in a way that brings glory to God for the love you are sharing in your community.

1. Work with local officials to paint over graffiti in your city.
2. Beautify your community by cleaning up trash at a park, beach, river, stretch of road, or in a needy neighborhood.
3. Contact a nursing home and offer to put on a special holiday program, event, talent show, musical program, or service project.
4. Ask your mayor or a city official about your community's greatest needs and what you could do to address them.
5. Help clean up and fix up a run-down playground OR convert an empty lot into a playground.
6. Contact school principal(s) to find out if there are needs you can help them meet (painting, cleaning, volunteers, tutors, helping needy families/students, etc.). [WATCH VIDEO about church helping a school.](#)
7. Work with prison ministry chaplains to identify spouses and children of prisoners. Put on a special event for them, help collect food baskets, Christmas presents, birthday presents, or school supplies.
8. Work with a school and collect backpacks and school supplies to give to children of families who can't afford them.
9. Run neighborhood Vacation Bible Schools in needy neighborhoods.
10. Work with officials to organize a group to clean and do any needed projects at a sports field or park.
11. Volunteer to host a special holiday event for an agency that helps foreigners learn English or for international students.
12. Volunteer with a local nonprofit (Habitat for Humanity, etc.) that helps builds or repair houses for people in need.
13. Offer a free car wash in your community. Use it as an opportunity to tell people that God freely loves them. Or if you want to charge, or people want to donate, use the funds towards a special giving project.
14. Partner with a need-meeting ministry or nonprofit to provide needed volunteers for a special program, event, or project.
15. Collect unused make-up, perfume, and cosmetics for a center for abused women.
16. Work with a nursing home and provide rides or a shuttle service to church services, the mall, or a special activity.
17. Conduct an eye-glasses donation drive. Collect old unused eye glasses from children and adults and partner with an organization that provides donated glasses to needy children or adults.
18. Offer a WE-LOVE-OUR-COMMUNITY day with free hair cuts, eye exams, etc.
19. Ask for permission to paint your town's fire hydrants, park benches, fences, or curbs where no parking is allowed in the community or at a school.
20. Make plans to organize a BETTER-JOBS-BETTER-DAYS-AHEAD SEMINAR or [program](#) for unemployed or under-employed adults. Offer sessions on God's purpose for work, interviewing skills, resume building, job searching skills, wardrobe/grooming tips, job training programs and courses in your area, on-going weekly support groups, people to pray for them, [conduct career assessment surveys](#), financial training, etc.)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Put together a "baby kit" for a new mother (diapers, formula, bottles, food, stuffed animal, clothes, etc.). 20. Give someone or several people a hug today. 21. Stop by the home of a single mom, widow, or retiree in your neighborhood and ask if there is any way you could be of help to them. 22. Share a funny story or one of your favorite jokes with someone today that will make them smile or laugh. 23. Call a friend you haven't talked to for a year or more. 24. Walk through your neighborhood and say a prayer for each family. 25. Bake or buy some snacks and take it to work or school to share with others. 26. Tip someone 50% on your restaurant bill. 27. Offer to pray for someone you know who is upset, hurting, or going through a difficult time. 28. Treat someone to the movies, event, or an activity. 29. Invite someone in your neighborhood over for a meal or dessert. 30. Take 30 minutes and go through your closets, cabinets, drawers, or storage areas and give away or donate items you are no longer using to someone who could use them. 31. Make a donation to a ministry or nonprofit in honor or memory of a loved one. 32. Give or send someone flowers. 33. Go visit an elderly person and take them a snack or gift. 34. Put money in someone's parking meter that has expired. 35. Help a neighbor, single mom, or elderly person/couple with needed house projects or repairs (mow the grass, clean the yard, fix fence, paint, rake leaves, shovel snow, etc.) 36. Let someone "in" when traffic is tight. Wave to them and smile. 37. Tell your pastor or Sunday School teacher something specific they said, taught, or did that has really be helpful in your life. 38. Offer to babysit someone's children or take them on an outing so the parent(s) can get a needed break or date. 39. When you are at the store, purchase an extra bag of groceries and give them to a single mom, widow, or needy family you know. 40. Invite a foreigner or foreign family to your home for a meal or to celebrate a national or religious holiday together. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Organize a community or neighborhood free dog wash. 22. Look at your city's community events calendar, pick an event, and find out how you can serve at it. 23. If you have doctors, nurses, dentists, or dental hygenists in your church or group, offer free basic services on a Sunday afternoon or evening when their offices are normally closed. 24. Conduct a food drive to serve needy people in the community through your church or local food bank. 25. Have an APPRECIATION SUNDAY for a specific group of professionals. For example, at a church have students nominate their favorite teacher and then invite the teacher and their family to a Sunday service where you honor all the nominated teachers with flowers and a FAVORITE-TEACHER CERTIFICATE signed by the pastor, parent/s, and the student/s. 26. Contact your city's juvenile court system and find out if there is something you can do to help troubled at-risk youth. 27. Put together a clothing drive to benefit people in need. 28. Organize a free water give-away day. Provide free water at a sporting event, intersection, motorcycle rally, parade, etc. 29. Get permission to organize a flash mob singing event at a mall over a religious holiday (Easter, Christmas). 30. Organize a group to offer LOVING-OUR-COMMUNITY free gift wrapping services at a mall over the Christmas holidays. 31. Cold soft drink, water, or snack giveaway to retail employees working at a mall or shopping area. 32. Sunglasses giveaway at a sporting event. Work with a \$1 store or order online (for as little as 25 cents each). Go through the stadium offering free sun glasses are part of a LOVING-OUR-COMMUNITY DAY. 33. Organize a local blood drive with your group. 34. Organize a free oil change and fluids check day for single moms or widows. You can also add a bicycle tune-up station for children's bikes. Have people in your group distribute flyer invites to people they know. 35. Work with a local gas station to celebrate the 40 Day Generous Life devotional by subsidizing everyone's gas fill-up by 40 cents per gallon or liter. Hold up signs saying: GOD LOVES YOU: 40 cents off each gallon of gas. Give people a copy of the devotional or info about the free online version at www.GiveWithJoy.org. 36. Organize a Volunteer Fair for your church or group. Provide tables in a lobby and invite local nonprofits, schools, camps, hospitals, and others to promote volunteer opportunities. 37. Organize a group to volunteer to pack, cook, or handout food at a local food bank, holiday dinner for the homeless and needy, etc. 38. Contact a group that works with disabled people, volunteer to build needed wheel chair ramps at their home. 39. Organize workers to trim overgrown trees/bushes on walking paths or in parks. 40. Set up a way to collect donations from employees, customers, church families, or group members to help fill a special need or to give to a need-meeting nonprofit organization or ministry. <p>BONUS IDEA: Identify a financial giving project for your group and offer to MATCH (DOUBLE) every dollar members give to the project during the 40 Days. Example: If you are a business, match every dollar employees give to your company project.</p> |
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Jesus said, "When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.

This brings great glory to my Father. This is my command: Love each other." John 15:8, 17

Live decent lives among unbelievers. Then, although they ridicule you as if you were doing wrong while they are watching you do good things, they will praise God on the day he comes to help you.

For it is the will of God in this way that by your excellent works you may shut the mouths of fools – those who do not know God, 1 Peter 2:12, 15

Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their misfortune. James 1:27





















The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow. Psalm 146:9





















List compiled by Brian Kluth for www.GenerousLife.org iPhone/Android/Windows APP and www.LovingOurCommunity.org campaigns.

Special thanks for inspiration and helpful ideas gleaned from the following websites:

www.40acts.org.uk, www.ServantEvangelism.com, www.Excellerate.com, www.PutYourFaithInAction.org, www.Texas4-h.tamu.edu, www.40DaysInTheWord.com

The Children's Wall Chart was used by kind permission of Stewardship, a UK charity passionate about transforming generosity. www.stewardship.org.uk

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| <p>1 Write</p>  <p>Make a list of all the generous things you would like to do this Lent, either by yourself or with others.</p> | <p>2 Give Out</p>  <p>Create a Giving Jar. Feed it with loose change, money you might have spent and any fundraising money.</p> | <p>3 Think</p>  <p>Let a family member win the race or the game, even when you really want to.</p> | <p>4 Care</p>  <p>Save energy: turn off lights, TV and chargers when you leave the room.</p> | <p>5 Draw</p>  <p>Draw a large heart and write inside all the ways you can love someone.</p> |
| <p>6 Think</p>  <p>Don't interrupt your parents or friends when they are speaking.</p> | <p>7 Care</p>  <p>Send a letter or picture to a grandparent, relation or Godparent.</p> | <p>8 Thank</p>  <p>At the end of Saturday, write down 5 things to be thankful for.</p> | <p>9 Act/Do</p>  <p>Offer to clean everyone's shoes in the family, especially any muddy sports shoes.</p> | <p>10 Give Out</p>  <p>Make a friend outside your usual 'crowd'.</p> |
| <p>11 Act/Do</p>  <p>Half the world lives on £1.40 a day - can you?</p> | <p>12 Think</p>  <p>Offer the last piece of cake or cheesecake to another family member.</p> | <p>13 Act/Do</p>  <p>If the bin is full, don't ignore it - empty it and replace the bin-liner.</p> | <p>14 Speak</p>  <p>Phone/email a grandparent, distant relative or friend to say 'hi'.</p> | <p>15 Make</p>  <p>Make some cakes or biscuits to share with your class mates.</p> |
| <p>16 Give Out</p>  <p>Check through your games and toys and give ones you don't use to a charity shop (not broken ones!)</p> | <p>17 Care</p>  <p>When you buy yourself a treat, buy two and give one away.</p> | <p>18 Think</p>  <p>Try to find out about someone your age living in a poorer country and compare your lives.</p> | <p>19 Act/Do</p>  <p>Change your bed and if you are feeling really generous change someone else's as well.</p> | <p>20 Act/Do</p>  <p>Ask if you can help at school, at home, at church, or at one of your clubs.</p> |

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| <p>21 Speak</p> <p>Say something nice about someone behind their back.</p>  | <p>22 Act/Do</p> <p>Cut down on your phone/texting time.</p>  | <p>23 Be Generous</p> <p>Be generous with your words, pay a compliment to a family member, friend or even your teacher.</p>  | <p>24 Give Out</p> <p>Work with a adult to run a fundraising event, organise a cake sale or a book swap with your friends.</p>  | <p>25 Act/Do</p> <p>Do chores without complaining.</p>  |
| <p>26 Care</p> <p>Pick up litter outside your home, church or school.</p>  | <p>27 Create</p> <p>Make a card or a note that says something nice for members of your family or friends and hide them somewhere where they will find them.</p>  | <p>28 Act/Do</p> <p>Walk/cycle/scoot to school once a week.</p>  | <p>29 Give Out</p> <p>Be a friend to a shy person.</p>  | <p>30 Act/Do</p> <p>Set the table and clear away, or do the washing up without being asked.</p>  |
| <p>31 Be Generous</p> <p>Be a good team player: don't hog the ball and compliment your team mates.</p>  | <p>32 Act/Do</p> <p>Tidy up your bedroom without being asked to. (Saturday before Palm Sunday)</p>  | <p>33 Thank</p> <p>Make palm crosses and write thank yous to God on them. (Holy week)</p>  | <p>34 Draw</p> <p>Create some pictures of Holy Week events.</p>  | <p>35 Speak</p> <p>Say sorry first, even if you think it wasn't your fault.</p>  |
| <p>36 Give Out</p> <p>Give someone a Fairtrade Easter egg.</p>  | <p>37 Make</p> <p>Make some Easter cards and send or deliver them today.</p>  | <p>38 Learn</p> <p>Memorise some bible verses, get someone to test you.</p>  | <p>39 Make</p> <p>Bake some Easter Story cookies or hot cross buns.</p>  | <p>40! Give Out</p> <p>Add up the money in your giving jar and get an adult to help donate it to your chosen charity!</p>  |